[28th July 1953

MR. SPEAKER :—" Yesterday, there was a discussion on this question."

SRI T. LAKSHMINARAYANA REDDI :—" No, Sir."

MR. SPEAKER :—" We have a half-hour debate to-day on the question put by Mr. Narayanan Nambiar. Day after to-morrow is the last day of this meeting. Let me hear at lea'a the answer of the Minister."

Assignment of lands to political sufferers and gruel centres in Penukonda taluk.

* 1148 *Q.*—SRI T. LAKSHMINARAYANA REDDI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any lands were granted to satyagrahis in Settipalley in Penukonda taluk, Anantapur district;

(*b*) whether the Hon. the Minister for Famine visited Penukonda and Kadiri taluks in 1952 or 1953;

(*c*) how many gruel centres were started in Penukonda taluk in 1952;

(*d*) how many are working now; and

(*e*) whether the Government have any proposal to raise the wages of the coolies in the gruel centre?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" (*a*) Yes.

" (*b*) There is no Minister for Famine; if the Revenue Minister is meant, the answer is in the negative.

" (*c*) The total number of gruel centres started in Penukonda taluk in 1952 was 55.

" (*d*) Nineteen gruel centres are now functioning in Penukonda taluk.

" (*e*) No mazdoors were employed in the gruel centres in Penukonda taluk. Only cooks are employed on a daily wage of 8 annas each."

SRI T. LAKSHMINARAYANA REDDI :—" In view of the fact that four firkas are affected this year and only two firkas were affected last year and in view of the fact that the Government have reduced the number of gruel centres from 55 to 19, will the Government seriously consider re-opening all the gruel centres and open some more new centres since hundreds and thousands of people are starving for want of food?"

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" I do not accept what the hon. Member has said. Agricultural conditions have improved this year and we are awaiting the periodical reports. As and when there is necessity, we shall help and we are doing it."

An hon. MEMBER :—" Are the Government aware that there is enormous delay in the payment of cost of firewood and cart hire and the gruel centres are forced to misappropriate the grains supplied to make payment in time? Will the Government, therefore, see that the cost of firewood and cart hire are paid immediately by the gruel centre manager when supplies are made? "

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" I have no idea of the length of time or delay involved in the payment. Gruel preparation has not been delayed any way. I shall, however, look into the matter."

Sri T. NAGI REDDI :—" The Minister was replying that conditions have become better this year. May I know whether he is aware of the fact that rains have been almost nil in those areas and crops have not been raised? The position has become still worse than last year. In view of these facts, will the Government immediately come forward with relief measures especially in respect of Anantapur district? "

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" We are always ready to meet any untoward agricultural conditions. We are doing our best in meeting distress. We are seized of the situation and we are periodically reviewing the situation."

Sri T. LAKSHMINARAYANA REDDI :—" It is really surprising to hear from the Revenue Minister that the situation is improving. I say it is not so. The Famine Commissioner refused tc visit the rural areas which are really famine-stricken. I would request the Revenue Minister to visit the places and see how things are and how people there are denied relief. May I know whether some relief will be given to people in these parts? "

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Certainly we will give relief if they deserve."

Sri R. SIDDANNA GOWD :—" What was the amount of rainfall this time last year and what was the rainfall this year? "

Mr. SPEAKER :—" A separate question may be put."

Sri C. SUBBARAYUDU :—" May I know the contents of the latest report from the Collector of Anantapur with regard to seasonal conditions? "

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" I want notice."

Sri S. VEMIAH :—" I request a half-hour debate on this question because this is a very important question."

Mr. SPEAKER :—" We have no time. We have only two more days and it is not possible to allow a half-hour debate. Today we have already another debate on Mr. Nambiar's question. If there is time we shall take it up."